

Let's have the TRUTH about prohibition

PROHIBITION—America's favorite topic of Pullman-car conversation. Whence did it come? Why is it here? Where is it taking us? No subject is more fluently debated—none less intelligently discussed. Let's have less of talk and more of facts.

Why prohibition, anyway? Did it steal upon us, like a thief in the night? Was it the outgrowth of hasty and impulsive action? Was it the will of the few inflicted without reason against the judgment of the many?

No one has ever claimed that liquor and alcoholism were beneficial to the nation. Even beyond that, any intelligent person voicing an honest opinion will admit the unquestioned harm inherent in liquor. It is after all a question of how to handle the problem.

Why prohibition? That's a fair question deserving of a fair answer. Did the sponsors of the Eighteenth Amendment go into it blindly? There are those who say that the 18th Amendment would not have been adopted were it not for the absence of two million men overseas in the World War. The statement is absurd in light of the facts. Here they are:

It is more than one hundred years since the first conference of a nation-wide effort to oppose liquor traffic met in Boston. Since that time, constant concentrated thought and effort have been devoted to both sides of the question. In 1851, Maine adopted the first prohibition law in the United States.

Before the United States entered the World War in 1917, twenty-five of the forty-eight states (more than half) had adopted State Prohibition! By action of the states themselves, together with local option, approximately 2,625 counties throughout the country were dry at the time National Prohibition was enacted, leaving only about 419 in which liquor was legal.

The logic of prohibition was solely responsible for this result. Was prohibition, as charged by some, the child of war hysteria? Let facts answer that charge for all time. *The Senators and Representatives from every state in the Union who decided the question of National Prohibition were chosen prior to April 6, 1917, the date when America entered the war, and their stand on prohibition was a considerable factor in their election!*

So America had gone on record before even the first troops were mobilized! And at no time during the war was more than

ten per cent of the voting strength excluded by war-time necessity from the ballot privilege.

Did the nation *want* prohibition? That it did cannot be so much as questioned. The Eighteenth Amendment was ratified by the largest *number* of states, and by the largest *percentage* of states that ever ratified any Amendment to the Constitution in the entire history of our country.

Only two states failed to ratify the Eighteenth Amendment after its enactment by Congress; 46 signified their approval by voting "Yes"! Even the Constitution itself received the immediate support of but 84.62% of all the states; the Eighteenth Amendment received 95.83% state support.

During a period of 130 years, more than 2,000 proposals of various sorts had been considered for amending the Constitution of the United States. Only seventeen of this number had been adopted. The prohibition amendment was the eighteenth. Do you suppose the American Congress would have sanctioned such a move without most carefully weighing every factor? And do you suppose it would have been so overwhelmingly ratified by the states if there were any question about what the voters wanted?

America *wanted* prohibition. America *has* prohibition. America has *advanced* by reason of the Eighteenth Amendment and will benefit even more as time goes on.

On Tuesday, November 6, 1928, exactly 36,879,414 voters went to the polls, 21,482,588 of whom registered their preference for Herbert Hoover on a strong law enforcement platform, a greater vote by 5,330,388 than was ever cast for any President of the United States in the history of America.

Later messages in this series will discuss the subject of prohibition from various angles—will show where prohibition is taking us. Watch for them and read them. Let's have the TRUTH about prohibition! An interesting booklet, entitled "Let's Have the Truth About Prohibition" will be sent free upon request to American Business Men's Prohibition Foundation, 7 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, Ill.

OTHER MESSAGES IN THIS SERIES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

Is Prohibition an Economic Success?
Are the Bootleggers Running the Country?
Prohibition and Taxes.
College Drinking—Let's Have the Truth.
Beer Pump or Filling Station?
Drinking—Before and After the 18th Amendment.
Crime and Prohibition.
Is Prohibition Breeding Disrespect for the Law?
What Has Prohibition Had to Do With Hard Times?
Has Prohibition Helped or Hurt Business?
Has Prohibition Made America Better or Worse?
What Do Business Men Say About Prohibition?
Why Do They Talk Wet and Vote Dry?

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